

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for deleting threads from a discussion group comprising a plurality of posts, the method comprising:
 - determining whether at least one user has read at least one post within a thread;
 - providing a message to the at least one user inquiring whether the at least one post was useful to the at least one user, wherein providing the message to the at least one user comprises providing, to the at least one user, a first selection operative to indicate, upon selection, a positive response, and a second selection operative to indicate, upon selection, a negative response;
 - determining whether the at least one user has rated the at least one post within the thread as useful;
 - if the at least one user has rated the at least one post as useful, retaining the thread;
 - if the at least one user has read the at least one post and not rated the at least one post, retaining the thread; and
 - if the at least one user has rated the at least one post as not useful, deleting the thread.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising setting a delete date associated with the thread to a predetermined value.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein retaining the thread comprises resetting the delete date of the thread to the predetermined value.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein retaining the thread comprises leaving the delete date of the post unchanged.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein deleting the thread comprises:
determining whether the delete date of the at least one post is equal to a current date; and
deleting the thread if the delete date is equal to the current date.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the at least one user has rated the at least one post within the thread, comprises:
storing a rating value in a field associated with the at least one post; and
determining whether the at least one user has affirmatively rated the at least one post as positive.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising determining whether the rating field has a value indicative of [[a]] the positive response, wherein determining whether the rating field has the value indicative of the positive response comprises:

determining whether the at least one user opened the at least one post; and
storing a positive value in the rating field associated with the at least one post.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein determining whether the rating field has the value indicative of the positive response further comprises:

determining whether the at least one user provided the positive response in response to the message inquiry whether the at least one post was useful.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein setting the delete date to the predetermined value comprises:

determining a type of the thread;

if the thread is a first type then setting the delete date of the thread to a first predefined value; and

if the thread is a second type then the setting the delete date of the thread to a second predefined value, wherein the first predefined value is less than the second predefined value.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the first type of thread comprises at least one of Question/Answer-type threads and Feedback-type threads.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the second type of thread comprises a General Comment-type post.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
displaying each post and a rating for each post on a display device.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions which when executed perform a method for deleting threads from a discussion group comprising a plurality of posts, the method executed by the computer-executable instructions comprising:

setting a delete date associated with the thread to a predetermined value;

determining whether at least one user has read at least one post within the thread;

providing a message to the at least one user inquiring the at least one user for a rating of the at least one post, wherein providing the message to the at least one user comprises providing, to the at least one user, a first selection operative to indicate, upon selection, the at least one user's positive feedback, and a second selection operative to indicate, upon selection, the at least one user's negative feedback;

updating the delete date of the thread if at least one post is rated positively by at least one user;

extending the delete date if the at least one user has read the at least one post and not rated the at least one post; and

determining whether the delete date of the thread is equal to a current date; and
if the delete date is equal to the current date, deleting the thread from the discussion group.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, further comprising determining whether the at least one post has received a positive rating, and ~~wherein determining whether the at least one post has received the positive rating comprises:~~

~~determining whether the at least one user opened the at least one post;~~
~~and~~

~~updating the delete date of the thread if the at least one user has opened the post~~ received the positive rating.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein setting the delete date associated with the thread to the predetermined value comprises:

determining a type of the at least one post;
if the at least one post is a first type, setting the delete date to a first predetermined value; and

if the at least one post is a second type, setting the delete date to a second predetermined value.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, wherein the first type of post is selected from a list comprising Question type posts and Feedback type posts and the second type of post comprises a General Comment-type post.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for removing a thread comprising a plurality of posts from a discussion group comprising a plurality of posts, the system comprising:

a server operable ~~[[for]]~~ to:

~~receiving~~ receive an input from a client related to at least one post associated with the thread;

~~returning~~ return at least one post of the thread to the client;

~~determining~~ determine whether the client opened the at least one post of the thread;

~~updating~~ update a delete date of the thread if the client opened the at least one post of the thread;

~~inquiring~~ inquire the client for a rating of the at least one post of the thread, wherein the server being operable to inquire ~~inquiring~~ the client for the rating of the at least one post of the thread comprises the server being operable to providing provide a message inquiring the client for the rating of the at least one

post of the thread displayed proximate to the at least one post, the message comprising a first selection which, upon selection, is operative to indicate a positive rating from the client, and a second selection which, upon selection, is operative to indicate a negative rating from the client ~~inquiring the client for the rating of the at least one post of the thread;~~

~~receiving~~ receive one of: the first selection and the second selection indicative of at least one rating associated with the at least one post from the client;

assign the positive rating to the at least one rating associated with the at least one post when neither one of the first selection and the second selection is received from the client; and

~~determining~~ determine whether to delete the thread associated with the at least one post from a database depending on the at least one rating received from the client; and

a distributed network connecting the client to the server.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the server being operable to determine ~~determining~~ whether to delete the thread comprises the server being operable to:

~~determining~~ determine whether the delete date of the thread is equal to a current date; and

if the delete date is equal to the current date, ~~deleting~~ delete the thread.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the server is further operable ~~for storing~~ to store the received input from the client in a rating field associated with the at least one post and the delete date associated with the thread.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, further comprising the server being operable to:

~~determining~~ determine whether the input received from the client has a value indicative of being useful, ~~wherein determining whether the input received from the client has the value indicative of being useful comprises:~~

~~determining whether the opened the at least one post of the thread; and~~

~~updating~~ update the delete date of the thread if the input received from the client had the value indicative of being useful ~~opened the at least one post of the thread.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the server being operable to update ~~updating~~ the delete date of the thread comprises the server being operable to:

~~determining~~ determine a type of the thread;

~~setting~~ set the delete date to a first predetermined value if the thread is a General Comment-type thread;

~~setting~~ set the delete date to a second predetermined value if the thread comprises a Question/Answer-type thread; and

~~setting~~ set the delete date to a third predetermined value if the thread comprises a Feedback-type post; ~~and~~, wherein the second predefined value is less than the first predefined value.